

The Dirt

News from MCSWCD

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Contractor/Developer, Construction Inspector Required Training

The Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District will be hosting a Contractor/Developer Training on October 8, 2009 from 8:00am until 12:00pm. The training will be held at the Henrietta Town Hall. Under the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Stormwater Permit GP-0-08-001, all developers, contractors and subcontractors must identify at least one *trained individual* from their company that will be responsible for implementation of the SWPPP and have at least one *trained individual* on site on a construction site everyday during soil disturbance activities by May 1, 2010. In order to be in compliance with the General Permit, these individuals must attend this training.

The cost to attend is \$95 per person and pre-payment is required by October 1. Pre-registration is required by September 30th. Please contact Kelly Emerick at kelly.emerick@ny.nacdn.net or call 585-473-2120 x3 to pre-register.

District's Stormwater Pond Workshop

On August 20th, the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Town of Chili hosted an informational workshop for local homeowners who live near stormwater ponds. Addresses of Chili residents were identified using Pictometry © aerial photography. Targeted mailings were sent out to advertise for the workshop, and over 30 homeowners attended. Information was presented on how stormwater ponds help control water quantity and improve water quality, what the Town's role is in maintaining these ponds, and what residents can do about aesthetic issues such as algal blooms and nuisance Canada geese. Also addressed were ways to reduce sources of nutrients that contribute to algal blooms such as pet waste, fertilizers, and grass clippings. The District staff provided recommendations to attendees on how to reduce the numbers of Canada geese at a pond such as not mowing to the edge of the pond, a common practice in many residential neighborhoods. It was explained that by allowing a pond to grow a natural vegetation buffer of three to six foot around it, geese can be deterred for fear of their predators hiding in the surrounding vegetation.

If you are interested in hosting a similar workshop, or have questions about your stormwater pond, please contact the District.



Caroline Myers discussing what stormwater ponds are and why they are needed.

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2009 District Deadlines & Events:

- Sept. 22, 23, & 24**—Annual Conservation Field Days at Ellison Park
- Sept. 23**—CPSWQ Exam
- Oct. 8**—Contractor Developer Training at the Henrietta Town Hall

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Stormwater Management Pond Improvements

In 2008 the Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County called for proposals from local municipalities looking to upgrade existing permanent stormwater management pond facilities. The objective of this project was to enhance stormwater ponds by incorporating features that improve water quality. Funded through a Water Quality Improvement grant from the NYS-DEC, projects in Chili, Ogden, and Webster were selected. Currently construction is underway and nearing completion for the Webster and Chili sites.

The Town of Webster pond project converted an athletic soccer field into a large stormwater pond in Empire Park located off of Empire Boulevard in Webster. The drainage area is approximately 400 acres including



Webster soccer field before construction

a number of upstream developments from the Town of Penfield. The pond will detain stormwater, enable sediment to settle out, and filter out harmful chemicals and other pollutants before allowing the water to discharge into a State wetland. Currently there is no treatment for this water.



The Webster pond during construction.

The Ogden pond project upgraded a small stormwater detention pond near Maida Drive to capture stormwater from the Ridge Meadows Subdivision. The new pond will be 1.2 acres. Prior to this upgrade project



The older smaller stormwater pond behind Lockwood Estates in the Town of Ogden.

the Ridge Meadows Subdivision had no stormwater treatment before discharging to Northrup Creek. This pond will capture and detain a greater amount of stormwater and allow pollutants to settle out before discharging into Northrup Creek.



The much larger stormwater pond that will also provide stormwater treatment to the Ridge Meadows Subdivision.

CONSERVATION FIELD DAYS

On September 22-24, the District will be holding its annual Conservation Field Days, for local 5th and 6th graders. These three days are filled with fun and educational workshops. The Field Days are held in Ellison Park and consist of multiple stations; each station covering a different area of conservation and environmental stewardship. If anyone is interested in volunteering during these three days, please contact Karen Ervay at: karen.ervay@ny.nacdnet.net.

WINTER POND RECOMMENDATIONS

Did you see dead fish floating in your pond last spring? One of the most common causes for a fish kill is not polluted water, but a lack of dissolved oxygen. A “Winter Fish Kill” is a common occurrence during long winters where heavy snow covers the ice of a pond. In ponds, light penetrates the surface reaching plants in the water, and dissolved oxygen is produced through the process of photosynthesis. However, once a layer of ice has formed and snow accumulates on it, light can be blocked from reaching the bottom of the pond, which impairs the photosynthetic process, and therefore leads to reduced levels of dissolved oxygen. If this



When light is unable to reach pond water, dissolved oxygen is no longer produced leading to winter fish kills.

occurs for an extended period of time, fish can become stressed due to the lack of oxygen and die. This is especially a concern for ponds that are very shallow and heavily vegetated.

An easy way to prevent winter fish kills is to shovel the snow off the pond. This will allow light to penetrate through the ice and allow the photosynthetic process to continue. Be sure that the ice is thick enough to hold your own weight before shoveling. Another way to prevent winter fish kills is to install an aerator. A submergent aerator produces dissolved oxygen to help prevent this, although a continuous supply of electricity must be present.

If you have any questions about winter fish kills, aerators, or other pond concerns please call the District.

AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT 2009 UPDATE

The mission of the Monroe County AEM program is to promote the awareness and adoption of agricultural conservation practices on local farms, increase environmental stewardship among agricultural producers while enhancing the economic viability of agriculture in Monroe County. The AEM program also seeks to improve awareness of the benefits of agriculture throughout the County, assist agricultural producers with achieving their farms objectives, and protect and improve local water quality and natural resources. Participation in the AEM program supports both individual agriculture operations and the larger agricultural Community by documenting the importance of farming in Monroe County and can lead to funding for the implementation of conservation practices on farms.

In 2009-2010, the County’s AEM program has targeted farms in several watersheds that were determined based on water quality monitoring data from the NYS-DEC Priority Waterbodies Lists (PWL), and input from local stakeholders. These watersheds include: the Black Creek watershed, which includes parts of Riga, Chili, Wheatland, Sweden, and Ogden. The Little Black Creek watershed, which includes parts of Ogden, Gates, and Chili. The Irondequoit Creek watershed, which includes parts of Brighton, Pittsford, Perinton, Penfield, Mendon. The Four Mile Creek watershed, which includes parts of Webster and Perinton and the Honeoye Creek watershed, which includes parts of Mendon and Rush. Although these are the focus watersheds this year, any farm in the County is welcome to participate.

The AEM process identifies and addresses agricultural sources that could potentially impact water quality in high-priority watersheds. Completion of conservation plans and the overall progression of farms through the AEM process is a high priority in the county. Since 2005, the Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District has received over \$230,000 in state funds to cost-share conservation projects on farms in Monroe County.

Interested farmers can get started by completing a basic farm assessment with the District, known as a Tier 1 and Tier 2. If this has already been completed, the next step is to move on to a farm plan known as a Tier 3. Completion of the Tier 3 allows a farm to become eligible to apply for State cost-share funds. To find out more on the AEM program contact our office.



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Conservation District**

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This newsletter is published quarterly by the Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District and is available at no cost to interested landowners, land users, and to the general public. If you would like to receive our newsletter, call us with your mailing address or view it online at www.monroecountyswcd.org. Programs and services offered through the Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District are made possible through the financial support of the USDA NRCS, County of Monroe, State of New York, specialized grant opportunities, and fundraising programs. All NRCS & SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, political beliefs, religion, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability. Our Board of Director meetings are open to the public; please call for information.

District Services & Items for Sale

General Site Visit for erosion problems \$50	Flags—100/bundle \$12	Soil Survey Free!
Backyard Conservation Site Visit (2 hr. limit) \$50/visit	Many Videos & Publications Free!	Tree Mats for weed control 3'x3' \$1.50ea. Or 10 for \$13
Questions/concerns about construction site runoff? Please call our office @ 585-473-2120	Questions on Pond Management? The Pond Guidebook \$17.00 ea.	Wood Duck Box \$25 ea. Bluebird Nest Box \$12.00 ea.
Topo, Wetland, Flood Maps \$1 per photo copy Aerial Photos \$50 for 4 years Digital \$10/site/year	"NYS Stormwater Design Manual" Need Help? Call Us!	"NY Standards & Specs for Erosion and Sediment Control" aka "The Blue Book" \$60ea.
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